

Peru's Navy Seizes 5 Onassis Whalers

By The United Press.

LIMA, Peru, Nov. 16. Peru-

vian air and naval forces have seized five ships of a whaling fleet operated by Aristotle Onassis, Greek-born shipowner. The Government announced today the vessels had hunted whales inside the 200-mile offshore zone claimed by Peru.

[In Panama, dispatches were received from the Onassis fleet, which is under Panamanian registry, saying the mother ship had been attacked by air 380 miles off Peru. Two other vessels were machine-gunned 300 miles off the coast and ordered to a Peruvian port, the dispatches added.]

Officials said the Peruvian Navy and air arm had been mobilized against the Onassis fleet in "defense of national sovereignty and of the country's marine wealth."

The announcement said two Peruvian destroyers had captured four ships and a fifth had been forced by a Peruvian plane to proceed to the oil port of Talara.

The destroyers were said to have caught the whalers Olympic Victor and Olympic Lightning by surprise about 180 miles off Aguja Point. Two other whalers were captured by the same destroyers forty miles farther south, off Talara, the Government reported.

The whaling crews surrendered without resistance, the announcement added. They were transferred to the destroyers and replaced by Peruvian crews who sailed the ships to Paita, northern port.

Another destroyer and three frigates left Callao today for mopping-up operations against the "pirate fleet," the announcement said.

Authoritative sources said the Peruvian units were under orders to fire on and sink any whaler that showed armed resistance. They said at least one of the Onassis ships carried guns.

The search will be carried on even outside Peruvian territorial limits and will cease only when the fleeing ships enter foreign territorial waters, officials said.

Limit Rejected by Panama

Special to The New York Times.

PANAMA, Nov. 16—Sources close to the Government reported today that dispatches from the Panamanian-flag whaling fleet

operated by Aristotle Onassis said two of the catcher vessels had been machine-gunned 300 miles off Peru's coast and ordered to a Peruvian port. The ship Conqueror was believed to have suffered light damage.

Earlier, official Panamanian inspectors aboard the mother ship Olympic Challenger reported she was being bombed by a Peruvian plane about 380 miles off Peru. They said the ship had not been struck, but the plane was still in the vicinity.

The dispatch from the mother ship noted that its position had been 180 miles outside the new 200-mile territorial limit claimed by Peru. Panama informed Peru in September she could not accept this limit.

The fleet left Panama in August, intending to hunt sperm whales off Peru until the weather became warm enough to go to the Arctic for blue whales.

Help from Ecuador Sought

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov. 16 (Reuters)—Chile's Ambassador at Lima reported to the Foreign Minister today that the Peruvian Government had asked Ecuador to intercept the rest of the whaling fleet from Panama.

Onassis Thinks Pact Was Made

Mr. Onassis said here yesterday that he understood that Panama and Peru had reached an agreement on his South Pacific whaling activities.

He has operated a fleet of streamlined whalers in southern waters for several years. But Chile, Ecuador and Peru met last month and decided to assert their claims to a 200-mile offshore limit.

Seventeen of the Onassis fleet of nineteen vessels were reported to have left Panama for operations.

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